THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Editor - - SYLVIA PANKHURST.

VOL. II.—No. 45. SATURDAY, JANUARY 29TH, 1916. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

Donations to be sent to Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Tchaykovsky, Langham House, Harrow, or Hon. Financial Sec., Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

ANTI-CONSCRIPTION MEETINGS.

Friday, Jan. 28th.

Copenhagen Place, 11 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier.

"Dog Market," Bethnal Green Rd., 12.30 p.m., Mrs. Price, Miss Lynch.

"Boleyn," Barking Rd., 7 p.m., Mrs. Davies, Mr. Bracher.

Saturday, Jan. 29th.

Mare St. & Morning Lane, 3 p.m., Mrs. Walker, Miss Manicom.

Morpeth St., 3.30 p.m., Miss Lynch.

Sunday, Jan. 30th.

Osborne St., 11.30 a.m., Miss Lynch.

Hyde Park, 3 p.m., Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Drake.

Monday, Jan. 31st.

"Whitehouse," 4.30 p.m., Miss Lynch, Miss Beamish.

Tuesday, Feb. 1st.

"Clock Tower," Burdett Rd., 7 p.m., Mr. Dunstan, Mrs. Bouvier.

Wednesday, Feb. 2nd.

Chrisp St., 6.30 p.m., Mrs. Drake.

Friday, Feb. 4th.

"Boleyn," 6.30 p.m., Mr. Dunstan, Mrs. Bouvier.

Saturday, Feb. 5th.

Grundy St., 11 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier.

Vernon Rd., 3.30 p.m., Miss Lynch, Mrs. Walker.

E.L.F.S. FIXTURES.

Friday, Jan. 28th.

Poplar Women's Hall, 3 p.m., Mrs. McLeod, Mrs. Shlette.

Bow Women's Hall, 7.30 p.m., Debate on "Poland after the War."

Sunday, Jan. 30th.

Bow Women's Hall, 7.30 p.m., Miss S. Pankhurst, Mrs. Boyce. Chair: Miss Lynch.

Monday, Jan. 31st.

175 Dalston Lane, 3 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.

Tuesday, Feb. 1st.

Bow Women's Hall, 3 p.m., Miss Mary Richardson, Miss Lynch.

Poplar Women's Hall, 8 p.m., Miss Roper, Mrs. Drake.

Wednesday, Feb. 2nd.

53 St. Leonard St., 3.30 p.m.

73, Calderon Rd., 3 p.m., Mrs. Walker.

Thursday, Feb. 3rd.

55 Fife Rd., 3 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Mrs. Parsons.

Friday, Feb. 4th.

Poplar Women's Hall, 3 p.m., Mrs. Walshe, Mrs. Drake.

Bow Women's Hall, 8 p.m., "Parliament."

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

The calls on our four mother and baby centres, for milk, eggs, medicines, and doctoring and nursing care, are still very urgent. Will you help by sending us some money for this work?

Will you send us new laid eggs, arrowroot, barley, glaxo or virol?

We want:—For baby, four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests, and a cot blanket; for mother, two nightgowns, woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets, and a pair of pillow cases.

Mothers and Children should make a point of attending the weekly consultations with nurse and doctor at:—

400 Old Ford Rd., Bow, Mondays 2.30 p.m.; 20 Railway St., Poplar, Tuesdays 3 p.m.; 53 St. Leonard's St., Tuesdays 2 p.m.; 55 Fife Rd., Canning Town, Tuesdays, 4 p.m.

Wanted a cutter and workroom superintendent. Apply by letter with full particulars to 45 Norman Road, Bow.

A TRAGEDY OF SWEATING.

Already depressed and exhausted by her struggle to live, Ada Elms, aged 32, a shirt-ironer of Twickenham, lost her mental balance when summoned for sending one of her four little children for a pint of beer. She drowned them all in a copper and then laid them side by side in bed with a teddy bear and a doll between them.

At the Old Bailey on January 20th, she was found guilty of murder, but was declared insane, and sent to a lunatic asylum.

Such tragedies, which are the natural outcome of our harsh and ill-organised social system, are even more grievous, because more constant and universal, than those of War.

Mr. Anderson cited in the House of Commons the case of Woolwich shirt makers, who were refused work at the Labour Exchange, because they had no clearance cards.

Mr. Runciman replied that these were cases for the Munitions Tribunal, which had decided that clearance cards were not necessary.

How much time is wasted by these eternal tribunals? And how would it have been had the tribunal found clearance cards necessary? The Government takes responsibility for industrial coercion, but leaves anyone to determine industrial justice.

We hear that Bryant and May's are paying lower wages to girls, as the wood supplied is of such poor quality! How can the poor girls help this?

A PLEA FOR HUMAN SUFFRAGE.

In a pamphlet entitled "Some Last Words on Women's Suffrage,"* Thomas J. Haslam, who is now 90 years of age, and has been working half-a-century for the Suffrage cause, gives the result of his long experience.

With reference to the Conciliation Bill, he remarks:—"The demand has not been of an inspiring character. A Bill, which would only enfranchise a million, or so, of our entire population, can have no charms for the millions who would be excluded from its operation, and whose claims for enfranchisement are just as valid as those of the women who would be included under it. A Bill which excludes all married women, and more particularly, all mothers of families—that is to say, nearly all our more experienced women, except the comparatively few householders who possess property, independent of their husbands, admits of no justification; and the question arises whether the time has not come when we should abandon all these paltry exclusions, once for all, adopt the frankly democratic principle, and demand the Parliamentary, as well as the Municipal vote, not merely for a favoured few, but for all capable women who pay rates and taxes, and all capable women who are required to obey laws, in the enactment of which they have heretofore, not been consulted—in other words, all our *adult women*, with a few necessary exceptions, such as criminals, etc. The time has assuredly gone by when it was necessary to enter into elaborate arguments in order to prove that the men who at present happen to possess the vote, say in the United Kingdom, and who do not constitute one half of our adult population, have no indefensible right to *enforce their arbitrary will upon the entire community*; that the possession of a certain amount of property confers no such right; and, more especially, that their claim to exclude all women, however capable, from any share, even in the Government of their own sex, undoubtedly savours of unseemly masculine arrogance . . . . As I have repeatedly urged, with full conviction, no Bill, seriously affecting the well-being of either women or children, should be drafted without being submitted to the judgment of experienced women *within the Cabinet*.

"But these conditions will never be realised until women generally, without any invidiuous exceptions, are enfranchised."

Mr. Haslam cites the various debates, in which Woman Suffrage was discussed, and the various arguments used, and concludes, by saying:—

"*Adult Suffrage* for both *sexes* is therefore what we should henceforth aim at . . . . Some *real* measure of enfranchisement will follow the termination of the War . . . . the extent and comprehension of that measure will largely depend upon the attitude and earnestness displayed by our women themselves."

We entirely agree with Mr. Haslam.

*"Some Last Words on Women's Suffrage." An Address delivered in Dublin by Thomas H. Haslam.

PEASANT SUFFRAGISTS IN FRIESLAND, HOLLAND.

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SATURDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 5th, at 3.15.

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Mr. DANIEL MELSA, the Celebrated Russian Violinist.

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PRICES v WHEAT COMMITTEE.

On January 19th, Mr. Runciman stated, in reply to a question by Mr. Partington, that the International Joint Committee for the purchase of wheat came into existence on December 30th, and that Messrs. Ross T. Smyth and Co. had been appointed to buy for the Committee, going out of the corn trade for the time being, in order to have no competing private interest. Messrs. Smyth had used the Runciman firm for shipping the greater part of the wheat to this country, but a special chartering department was now to be opened in accordance with the wish of the Committee.

Mr. Runciman explained that he had retired from the Runciman firm ten years ago, and that his present connection with it is that the head of the firm, who is also a Member of Parliament, is his father.

The transaction with the Runciman firm and, indeed, the net result of the Wheat Committee's work is that the price of wheat has gone up rather than down. Obviously, the Committee has failed to protect the consumers.

As we have said before, we do not consider that committees of traders and plutocrats will ever keep the prices down.

Working housewives when are you going to make your voices heard?

GOVERNMENT GENEROSITY?

Women are now employed in military hospitals; the rates of pay are as follows:

General Service Superintendent, 33s.-35s. per week.

Dispensers, pharmaceutical major or minor certs., 40s.-45s. per week.

Assistant dispensers, Apothecaries' Hall cert., 28s.-30s. per week.

Head clerks, 26s.-33s. per week.

General superintendent, 33s.-35s. per week.

Clerks, telephone operators, storekeepers, and X-ray attendants, 20s.-26s. per week.

Laboratory assistants (trained) 26s.-30s. per week.

Laboratory assistants (untrained) 20s.-26s. per week.

Head cooks (trained) 20s.-25s. per week and food.

Assistant cooks (trained) 16s.-18s. per week and food.

Head cooks (trained) resident, £30 to £40 per annum, including food.

Assistant cooks (trained) resident, £20 to £25 per annum, including food.

Special stress is placed on the respectability of the women employed; yet we notice they do not get the minimum trade union rates which for Clerks are 35s. a week!

The *Nation*, after giving various details about the political situation, goes on to say that in the coming reorganisation of society "women will bear a part consonant with the new and astounding revelation of their power."

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND.

LEAGUE OF RIGHTS
SOCIAL and DANCE
—AT—
Fairbairn Hall, Canning Town,
February 12th. Tickets 3d.

I wish to join the EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

Name.....

Address.....

I enclose 2½d. to cover Membership Fee and postage, or 1s. 1½d., a year's subscription.

The
Woman's Dreadnought.

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes,
400 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW, E.
Telephone EAST 1787.

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Vol. II. No. 45—Sat., Jan. 29th, 1916.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service?

A QUESTION OF TACTICS.

The reason for narrowing down the women's suffrage claim to the demand for votes on the terms on which they are at present extended to men, was the hope of pushing through, as a Private Member's measure, a little Bill of one clause, which merely provides that, for all purposes connected with voting at Parliamentary elections, "words importing the masculine gender shall include women."

In devising the Bill it was recognised that a Private Member's Bill must be as short as possible, and, if possible, should confine itself to one issue, because, even in 1870, when the Bill was first introduced by Jacob Bright, the time allowed for Private Members' business was very limited, and their power to prevent this being wasted by obstructionists was very small.

The power and prestige of the Private Member has waned since 1870, and everyone is now agreed that no Private Member's Bill can become law, unless the Government of the day is actively interested in it. Moreover the refusal of the Speaker to give the Closure in order that a vote might be taken on the Conciliation Bill, except on condition that the measure went no further than a Second Reading, and his declaration that the women's suffrage amendments to the Reform Bill were out of order, show us that votes for women cannot be secured by a Private Member's Bill or amendment.

All the Suffrage Societies are now agreed in demanding a Government measure. Therefore, the reason for a one-clause Bill has disappeared, as the Government has all the time of Parliament at its disposal. It is the duty of Suffragists to prepare the way for a Government measure, to work and struggle to hasten its coming, and to see that it is the biggest and broadest measure possible when it comes.

In the dim past, which dates from the birth of the Women's Suffrage Societies in 1865-6, Suffragists adopted a non-party attitude. They strove to conciliate the Conservatives and Liberals, and also the Irish, endeavouring to win supporters from every side, in the hope that votes for women might go through as a non-party measure, championed by a Private Member.

The ideal of the Suffragists in those days was that the opposing parties should mean nothing to them. I remember hearing Mrs. Fawcett say, in 1904, that the Government and Opposition were to Suffragists merely "the Ins and the Outs."

In 1905-6 came a change — the W.S.P.U. arose with an anti-Government policy (afterwards adopted by numbers of other new societies) which was avowedly designed to make votes for women a Party question, in order that it might be taken up and passed through by a Party Government as one of its own measures.

A Conservative Government was going out, a Liberal Government was coming in. For those who had determined to make Votes for Women a party measure, the question to be decided was whether they should aim at hitching their cause to the Conservative or the Liberal and progressive forces.

If the former course were chosen, it would mean that the women must wait for enfranchisement until the incoming Liberal Government should be overthrown and the Conservatives should come in; whereas there was possibility of achieving success during the reign of the new Government, if Votes for Women could be made a Liberal measure. Undoubtedly Votes for Women, like every other extension of the franchise, naturally belongs to the progressive programme, whether the existing temporary exponents of the progressive parties may be willing to place it there or no: It is true that Conservative Governments have from time to time introduced progressive measures, for instance the Reform Act of 1870 and the Factory Acts. Moreover the Liberal Party is riddled with hypocrisy and many of the grossest of the re-actionaries abound in its ranks.

But the choice was not actually between the ephemeral leaders of the Liberal and Conservative Parliamentary Parties. It was as to whether Votes for Women was to be put forward as something that would aid in keeping things as they are, and in bolstering up property and privilege; or whether Votes for Women was to come as an extension and reinforcement of the power of democracy and the development of the equal right of every human being to mould the conditions of our collective life.

To succeed in making Votes for Women a Party question it was necessary to make precisely that choice, if the necessary leverage were to be obtained.

The choice was never definitely made, and the object of securing that Votes for Women should be a Party measure was not achieved.

At first, and later, from time to time, it seemed that the militant suffragists had chosen to ally themselves unofficially with the progressive forces, but gradually there came a decided bias towards reaction. The Non-Militant National Union of Suffrage Societies showed a more constant though, also, more cautious tendency towards progressivism. On the whole the suffrage societies have continued to justify their oft-repeated assertion that they are non-Party, in the broad sense of being neither progressive nor reactionary, although Votes for Women is in itself progressive.

This non-Party attitude is, in our opinion, a negation of the demand for a Party measure. In making this assertion we do not wish to imply that to secure a Party measure it is necessary for suffragists to be subservient to, or even definitely allied to any political organisation. But we contend that if suffragists are to succeed in securing the adoption of Votes for Women as a progressive measure, they must be still more progressive than the progressives: if they desire to make it a reactionary measure, they must be still more reactionary than the reactionaries.

Suffragists who wish to remain impartial, sitting on the fence between the great issues of popular liberty, as against autocratic compulsion, should refrain from calling for a Party measure and from attacking the Government, if they would be logical and achieve results. They should return to the old practice of being all things to all men. Their duty undoubtedly is to press for Votes for Women, now, during the War, to be carried as an agreed non-Party measure. Alas the chance of success appears to be small and yet this is the best chance the non-Party solution is ever likely to get.

Those who wish to have Votes for Women brought in as a bulwark of reaction and privilege, and who either have the capacity of thinking clearly enough to devise a logical policy, or whose innate tendencies lead them that way, are now to be found crying out for both industrial and military compulsion, and the suppression of national and international co-operative tendencies and popular liberties. They may be applauded for what is called their patriotic fervour; but, though everything is possible of course, it is unlikely that the Party of reaction will confidently espouse Votes for Women as a reactionary measure!

We, who believe that Votes for Women must come with the onward march of democracy, and that it can only come as a part of the democratic demand, must not fear to show that we are on the side of democracy on every predominant issue. Moreover we must modernise and democratise our demand.

Some suffragists put forward a host of such sayings as that "this is a conservative country," and that British Governments always "take two bites at a cherry," to induce us to adhere to the old demand for:—

THE VOTE ON THE SAME TERMS AS IT IS, OR MAY BE, GRANTED TO MEN.

We point out that votes on those terms would enfranchise less than two million women, and urge that we want the married woman to have a vote, but they tell us to be practical, and insist that "you cannot remove the sex bar and the property bar at the same time."

We say that *they* are refusing to be practical, and to bring their ideas up to date. They refuse to recognise the significance of the fact that the "Reform Act" introduced by the Liberal Government in 1913, would have established what was almost manhood suffrage for men, *and would have been passed into law, but for the situation created by the Votes for Women question.*

Manhood suffrage having come so near to enactment as that, it would be folly to imagine that it will be long postponed. Therefore unless we are to surrender the demand for Votes for Women on the same terms as it is *or may be* granted to men, we must prepare the ground for womanhood suffrage.

When the 1913 Reform Bill was before Parliament, it was seen that the country, nay, even large sections of the Suffrage Movement, were unprepared to demand equality under it, which would have amounted to little less than Womanhood Suffrage.

Large sections of the Suffrage Movement actually advocated taking less than equality, and admitted that they would be satisfied with any measure of enfranchisement, however small. They failed to realise that the measure of justice which reformers can wring from Governments is in direct proportion to the breadth and strength of the reformers' demand.

Experience of suffragist policy when faced with the Reform Bill, and the opinions now expressed by prominent suffragists, point irresistibly to the conclusion that, to meet the next franchise Bill, working women must organise without delay to support their own claim.

Most of the existing suffrage societies are mainly middle-class; they fail to realise the importance of securing that all women shall be enfranchised, and lack the strength and enthusiasm to fight for this broad claim.

Working women are those who suffer most by any property barriers to the franchise. They alone can be depended on, in the mass, to insist that such barriers shall be broken down. It is essential that working women should organise for womanhood suffrage. They should either form suffrage groups or committees in their existing working-class organisations or start special working women's suffrage societies and federations all over the country.

The East London Federation of the Suffragettes, which, as our readers know, is a working woman's organisation, the object of which is to obtain the vote for every woman over 21, will gladly give what assistance it can in the matter to the working women of other districts.

Write to us if we can help!

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

A LIBERAL RAT.

Lord Rosebery, a one-time Liberal Prime Minister, has announced that Free Trade is one of the "preconceived opinions" which we must be prepared to discard after the War. The *Manchester Guardian* points out that the "No trade with Germany" really means "an indefinite continuance of hostile relations," and pertinently remarks:—

"A Germany subjected to a commercial boycott will, of course, settle down to the elaborate preparation of escape from the encompassing net, and that escape, commerce being cut off, will only be attained by arms . . . . we do not wish to see another war in our time. It is enough for one generation of our youth to have passed through the fire to Moloch."

In reply to the plea that the War has shown that we must be a self-contained nation as an argument for placing an import duty on corn and other necessaries, the *Manchester Guardian* adds:—

"If the nation has come to the conclusion that it wants some definite thing produced in some definite quantity, which it will not get from private industry under the conditions of a free market, then the nation ought to produce that thing itself in its own workshops. We invite Free Trader and Protectionist, Tory and Liberal alike, to disregard preconceived opinions on these questions of State ownership."

What next? This sounds quite like the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT, the *Herald*, or the *Labour Leader!*

But will the *Manchester Guardian* stick to this declaration and agitate for its acceptance by the Liberal Party and its parliamentary leaders?

A LABOUR RAT.

Mr. Henderson has published his defence of his refusal to obey the ruling of the Labour Conference, which directed him and his colleagues of the Labour Party to leave the Cabinet, in the form of a letter to his election agent at Barnard Castle.

This letter shows quite clearly that Mr. Henderson will offer no opposition to a wider application of Conscription than that introduced by the present Military Service Bill. He says:—

"I saw Lord Kitchener, and received from him the most definite and emphatic assurance that military necessity required the enrolment, not only of the single men attested under the Group system, and not only of all the married men whose enlistment was dependent on the passage of the Bill, but also of all the men, be they many or few, who are available from the 651,000 unattested single men, and even so there will be a margin left to be covered by voluntary enlistment.

"I do not see how any man can set his opinion on a military question against the conclusion of Lord Kitchener and the General Staff. . . ."

No man must set his views against those of Lord Kitchener and the General Staff, argues Mr. Henderson, and so when Lord Kitchener and the General Staff—convinced Militarists and Conscriptionists to a man—call for universal Conscription of married and unmarried alike they are to have their way. They are to have their way, if, to feed the War machine, they call for younger and younger lads down to the little fellows who are but just leaving school, and we are to agree without protest, if they call for older and older men, till the old age pensioners are drawn into their net!

In the House of Commons, Mr. Bonar Law stated that the British Dominions and Colonies where Compulsory Service exists are: Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, British Guiana, Jamaica, Antigua, Dominica and Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis Bahamas, St. Helena, the Straits Settlements, Fiji, and the East Africa Protectorate.

Order the DREADNOUGHT through your Newsagent.

MUNITIONS BOARDS.

All sorts of conflicting efforts are being made to patch up the Munitions Act so that it shall run smoothly. Whilst others are endeavouring to pour the oil of conciliation on the troubled waters, Mr. Lloyd George continually strives to put on more compulsion.

The National Labour Advisory Committee, of which Mr. Mosses is the secretary, was formed in March. Its experience has been a curious one. The Ministry of Munitions provided it with no office accommodation of its own, and it continued to find a foothold where it could, on sufferance, till Mr. Booth, the "man of push and go," consented to give the Committee house-room at the War Office.

It was thought necessary to have local Advisory Boards, and the secretary drew up a constitution for these bodies, but months passed before any authority could be found to take the responsibility of assenting to it. At last Mr. Addison agreed to do this.

In the meantime the Central Labour Advisory Committee was without funds, and still further time elapsed before the Treasury could be induced to pay the moderate expense of setting up the local Advisory Boards. The Treasury has at last agreed to pay to each delegate a fee of 2s. 6d. for each attendance at a meeting of the Advisory Boards and 1s. an hour for time lost from the normal daily working hours—nothing for loss of overtime. Mr. Mosses *hopes* that the secretaries of the Board will be paid 5s. for each meeting and the work entailed by it, but the Treasury has not assented to this.

(It is not on this scale that the Treasury has remunerated Messrs. Meyer, Ross, T. Smyth, and other business men who have assisted Government departments—but that is by the way).

Eight local Labour Advisory Boards are being formed for the London area, and others are being appointed all over the country.

Each board consists of seven members elected at a meeting of delegates of the various Trade Unions in the district. No union may nominate more than one member of the Advisory Board. As each Board is limited to seven, it is of course impossible for every Trade Union to secure representation on it.

The Amalgamated Society of Engineers, the great Union most affected, has refused to be represented on the Boards. The duties of the Boards consist in:—

Obtaining information of the failure by employees to carry on the Munitions Act; making records of changes in workshop practice, assisting in enrolling munition volunteers, noting cases of under-employment with a view to compelling the release of workmen for duties on which they might be more profitably employed, using moderating influences in trades disputes.

Cases of lost time and such minor matters are now to be settled by Domestic Courts, instead of by the Munitions Tribunals. The Domestic Courts are to consist of equal numbers of employers' representatives and members of the local Labour Advisory Boards with an independent chairman, probably the Secretary of the Labour Exchange.

It is the business of the Local Labour Advisory Boards to advise on and assist in the dilution of labour. Some of the members will scarcely like this task.

The Local Labour Advisory Board is also to graduate the subsistence allowance of munition volunteers, which is not to exceed 5s. a day, and it will be part of their duty to pay "domicilary visits" to the homes of the munition volunteers to see whether their statements in regard to their dependants, etc., are correct.

Altogether the duties of the Boards appear to be most arduous and may turn out to be unpleasant. The "domicilary visits" and the subsistence allowance of 2s. 6d. and *downwards* have a strong flavour of the charity-organisation-cum-ticket-of-leave-methods that are being foisted upon us nowadays.

Mr. Lloyd George will never secure smooth working of the Munitions Act until he abolishes private profit in armaments and establishes the workshop control by the workers *in the workshop*, that the Clyde workers are demanding.

"*Commissioners*" have been appointed by the Government to visit the Clyde and Tyne to carry out the Government policy in regard to the dilution of labour. The Commissioners for the Clyde are Mr. Lynden Macassey and Mr. Isaac Mitchell; for the Tyne they are Sir George Croydon Marks, M.P., Right Hon. G. N. Barnes, M.P., and Mr. David Shackleton.

We wonder what power these "Commissioners" are to have, and what their late colleagues in the Trade Union movement will have to say to Barnes, Shackleton and Mitchell.

The *Times* reports that "no opposition to their appointment has so far been expressed." The *Times* is evidently expecting trouble.

Mr. Cowan asked the Minister of Munitions, to take steps to see that such wages were paid in controlled establishments that women could earn a living wage by working only six days a week.

He suggested the more general introduction of week-end relief workers.

On January 18th Mr. Foster stated in the House of Commons that there are 41 Military officers (21 of whom are under 40) at the Army Clothing Factory at Pimlico, and the depots in London and Leeds.

What are these officers needed for? Is it for dragooning the workers?

LANDLORDS AGAIN!

It is reported from various parts of the Country that landlords presuming on their tenants ignorance of the Rent Act, are demanding extortionate increases in rent.

If the landlord raises your rent refuse to pay!

We should be glad to help any tenants, whose rents have been raised, to secure redress.

Dear Editor,—Actuated and stimulated by the DREADNOUGHT, we here are engaged in giving the landlord a kick. He owns five houses in this road, two of which are occupied by the families of soldiers. About September 10th, 1915, he sent us the usual slobber about being desirable tenants, sorry to lose us, etc., but our rent would in future be 9s. instead of 8s. 6d. Largely because of my lack of time, we all paid it till to-day. When he received only the 8s. 6d. the dust and small stones flew in all directions, and he threatened us to wait till the War is over and he'd see who's who. He'd have no agitators living under him, etc., in fact, studded our crown of freedom with gems galore. But I can understand that they will try to use the arrears dodge to the detriment of the tenants when they seek to go elsewhere, do you know of any counter move to this, or if you hear of one, will you acquaint us? Also you will see from the above that we've paid a lot of sixpences from November 25th till now, and as I read Clause 2, Sec. 1 of the Act, these may be recovered by deducting from future rents up to the amount; will you please say if this is so?

I ought to say, in conclusion, that these people here are too good for this hum-bug. As a typical example, one woman said "*it's the first time arrears have appeared on my book for 20 years.*" This speaks for itself. Wishing you success in your glorious work.

Yours, etc., RAILWAYMAN.

The Women's Labour League held its Tenth Annual Conference at Bristol, January 26th, and passed the following resolution:

This conference declares that the Women's Labour League will continue its opposition to the Military Service Bill, and in the event of its becoming law will agitate for its repeal. It reminds the people that Ministerial pledges are valueless if not expressed in the Bill; and further declares that the protection for the concientious objector and the safeguards against industrial compulsion are illusory; and calls upon women workers to do what they can to prevent victimisation in individual cases, by refusing to take the place of "starred" men who are unfairly discharged.

The question of closing London Museums and Galleries was discussed in Parliament. Mr. Montagu maintains there will be a saving of £50,000 "on an object which could not be said was necessary for beating the Germans."

It is our lack of knowledge which handicaps us now; every penny "saved" on education will be so much help given to the Germans! Besides, in poorer districts the only place for children's object lessons is the museum.

MILITARY SERVICE BILL.

In the midst of War people appear, on the surface, to go on surprisingly as before. So it is with the Conscription Bill. It has become law and its worst features have been little changed in Committee.

The organised workers and the conscientious objectors, appear to be taking the matter very quietly. By a majority of 900,000 votes, we learn as we go to press, the dockers have passed a resolution supporting the Government that has introduced Conscription.

The first brunt of the evil system which will soon be in force will fall on the young men who for one reason or another, believe that they ought not to fight.

The conscience clause which has been introduced is valueless.

The Government resisted amendments to make the proof of conscientious objection a declaration on oath either before a magistrate or a Tribunal, and the Bill leaves it to the Tribunal to decide in its own way whether a man has a conscientious objection, and even what a conscientious objection is.

In cases where the Tribunal admits a man to be a conscientious objector, the Bill provides that his certificate may take the form of an exemption from combatant duties only, or may be conditional on the applicant being engaged in some work which, in the opinion of the Tribunal, is of national importance. The conscientious objection to non-combatant military service is ignored.

The certificate of exemption *may* be "absolute, conditional, or temporary." The Government refused an amendment to make the certificate absolute, so that the exempted will never be able to feel that they are safe.

The provision which is supposed to protect the conscientious objector from the death penalty for refusal to undertake military service, only prevents the death penalty from being inflicted on him for "failure to obey an order calling him up from the Reserve for permanent service."

But his failure to obey that order will be only the beginning of his struggle. There is nothing in the Bill to hold back the death penalty later on.

The safeguards against the imposition of industrial compulsion as a consequence of the Bill are also worthless, the amendments inserted by the Government fail to go to the root of the matter. They fail evidently with intent, as is evidenced by the refusal to accept Mr. Sherwell's amendment that:—

"No person to whom this section applies shall be employed against his will in any civil trade or industry."

Mr. Long objected that the words "might be mischievous" and Mr. Bonar Law declared that the Army authorities had "the strongest objection" to them.

It is noteworthy that, though a man who has obtained exemption as a munitioneer, but leaves his place of employment, cannot be called up for military service for six weeks, six weeks is just the period during which he cannot be re-employed, if he has left his employment without permission.

For the rest, the Government representatives gave many assurances as to their good intentions, but refrained in most cases from embodying them in the Bill. This is the case in regard to representation for Trade Unions and women on the Tribunals, both most important points.

But no amendment could make the Bill tolerable. It must be swept away!

Mrs. Hutty was arrested on Tuesday, 19th, in Newcastle-on-Tyne, for distributing anti-Conscription leaflets. On a subsequent occasion she was followed home, and from 10.30 p.m. to 12.15 her house was ransacked, and her letters and papers were taken away by the police.

A correspondent writes that a meeting held under the auspices of the Erith I.L.P. was broken up by Australian soldiers from the Bostal Heath Camp.

Many of the soldiers, however, apologised for their rough behaviour, saying they had been misinformed—they then gave three cheers for Labour!

CONSCRIPTION IN PRACTICE.

It is generally thought in this country that Conscription laws are first felt when a boy is 19. In Austria, which is not the strictest military country, they are felt from early boyhood.

There the school system is such that failure to pass from one class to another effects the boy's liability to serve one year, or three in the army.

Those who have successfully passed the Matriculation—the final exam. preparatory to the University—need only serve one year; therefore, it is natural that all boys, who can be kept at school the necessary eight years to go through the Matriculation course, feverishly work for the glory of serving only one year as an officer, rather than three as a private.

Suicides are a common result of the strain this forced education causes; but it is quite reasonable that some test other than property should be enforced.

Property steps in soon enough. When a boy matriculates he is called to present himself for medical examination. Certain blemishes, flat feet, weak eyes, surgical operations, etc., exempt from military service; but whether your father has a large income or not is also an important factor. The medically unfit pay "cripple money" (Kruppelgeld), a percentage on the boy's father's income. If that is large, then it is in the interest of the State to find the defects of rich men's sons more serious than those of poorer citizens!

It does not follow that those who fail to be taken the first time will be regarded as finally rejected. No, this process of "presentation" must be gone through many times—whenever those in authority call upon men between 18 and 24. Should youths between these ages go abroad, the change of address must be notified, and they are liable to be recalled for presentation at any time.

The only sons of widows have special treatment *even* in militarist states—these are either fully exempt from military service, or need only take a few weeks training. They and the so-called bread-winners, who are the main support of their families, are always the last to be called upon.

In the Military Service Bill now before Parliament—a half measure of Conscription, it is supposed to be—no such exemptions are included. Conscription when in full swing here will lack any such elements of humane feeling.

The country where military service is the order of the day is doubly taxed. It is a drain on the youth of the country, and the loss and hampering of young men's careers is keenly felt by parents and sons alike. Then the general taxation of these countries is always higher than non-military ones—high tariffs and internal taxation tend to make life much more expensive.

Having started the military career, men are called upon periodically for training—this too interferes with civil occupations—until finally they are ranked in the last reserve, the "Landsturm," which is only for home defence.

From these facts, it can be plainly seen that Conscription haunts from early boyhood till middle age—even in peace. The horrors of warfare under such a system must far surpass any hardships experienced in peace times.

We, in this country, are to taste of the extreme before we are trained up bit by bit, as our Allies and enemies have been by living all their lives in militarist lands.

A "Wayfarer" in the *Nation* writes that most questions of inner politics have suffered by the war except Woman Suffrage. "The other day I spoke with one of its most powerful opponents. He confessed a total change of view. The suffrage would be inevitable after the war. More—women should be in Parliament; he would like to see two in the Cabinet. They were wonderful—their adaptability . . . . . , etc."

We refrain from quoting further, but hope "Wayfarer's" conversation will be realised!

Those who will help to secure Womanhood Suffrage under the next Reform Bill should write to us.

EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

OBJECTS: To secure the Parliamentary Vote for every Woman over 21, and to promote the Social and Industrial Welfare of Women.

Entrance Fee...1d. Subscription...1d. a Month

BRANCH REPORTS.

BOW.

400 OLD FORD ROAD.

Secretary: MISS LYNCH.

The Anti-Conscription Procession and meeting in Victoria Park were very successful, but we would have liked to have seen more Bow members present. The Debate on Friday was on Conscription, which was defeated in our "Parliament." Members who wish to become speakers ought to attend these Debates, as they give an easy opportunity of learning to speak. We also have discussions at the Tuesday afternoon meetings.

Tickets for Sunday's meeting are on sale at the office, price 2d. Members are asked to help with selling, as we should have the hall packed.

We should be glad of offers for help with the Stall on Saturdays, if only for an hour.

Don't forget the Annual Conference, Bow Baths, Feb. 27.

Dreadnought sales week ending Jan. 22nd—1124. Miss O'Brien 328, Miss Lynch 246, Mrs. Holloway 202, Mrs. Bellyse 78, Mrs. Crabb 55, Miss Bennett 50, Miss Smyth 30, Mrs. Pascoe 16, Mrs. Savoy 8. Sales in Office—6.

BROMLEY.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. MANTLE, 53 St. Leonard Street.

Dreadnought sales, per Mrs. Payne—111.

POPLAR.

THE WOMEN'S HALL, 20 RAILWAY ST.

Secretary: MRS. DRAKE.

Miss Feek was our speaker on Tuesday, and Mrs. Shlette obliged by taking the chair; Friday afternoon Mrs. Shlette was the speaker, and Miss Manicom took the chair. Our best thanks to them. Owing to Children's Party on Saturday, Paper Stall in Chrisp St. could not be taken, and we shall be much obliged if our supporters will call in at 20 Railway St. to buy their *Dreadnoughts* any time this happens, as it is most important that the Paper should be read and sold. Our numbers are low this week—only 240. Please try to realise that this is the most important part of the work of the Federation. The subscriptions for December, which include some arrears, amounts to £1. Total paid for the year 1915 £8 6s. 5d. We are now ready for January, and some have been paid. Heartiest thanks to the stewards who worked so well at our Children's Party, by getting presents, paying their money, and giving their services. We shall still be glad to receive donations towards the expenses, as we wish to clear these expenses ourselves.

Thanks to Mrs. Scurr for 3s., Mr. Ackfield 5s., Miss Feek 12s., Mrs. Quill 2s., Mr. Pledger 2s. 6d., Miss Morley 1s., Mrs. Bellyse 2s. 6d., Mrs. Manicom and Mrs. Blant garments, Mrs. Mabbott a large cake, Mrs. Moore (of Poplar) a large cake, the Misses Fox toys.

Collections—Miss K. Lagsding & Miss Morley 10s. 4½d., Miss E. Lagsding 6s. 4½d., Mrs. Drake 8s. 9½d.

Dreadnoughts sold week ending Jan. 22nd—240. Mrs. Shlette 73, Miss K. Lagsding 50.

HACKNEY.

Offices: 175 DALSTON LANE (Facing Hackney Downs Station).

Papers can be obtained at this address at any time.

Thursday, February 3rd, is the date now fixed for a public meeting in the Aspland Hall. This meeting must be an unparallelled success; so plenty of work is needed, and many helpers wanted. Bills can be obtained from the office. Offers of help for chalking and assistance at open-air meetings will be greatly appreciated.

The January subscriptions are not all in yet. Please pay up promptly.

Miss Smyth was our speaker last Thursday evening. Her address deserved a larger audience.

The Anti-Conscription meetings held in Well St. have been a great success, and the sale of papers has been good.

We were pleased to welcome a new member last week, especially as she has plenty of spare time, and intends to help to enlarge the branch.

More workers; more members; more money wanted.

Papers sold—122. Distributed 100.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

NORTH LONDON M.P.U.

Hon. Sec.: MR. H. G. EVERETT, c/o Mr. Innes, 31 Balmes Road, Southgate Road.

Members are urged to support our meetings every Sunday afternoon in Finsbury Park, 3 p.m.

The hon. sec. has tickets for a Debate on "The Future of Poland," to be held on Friday in the Women's Hall, Bow, price 2d.; also for a Concert in aid of the East End Babies, to be held in the Aeolian Hall on Feb. 5th. Prices 7s. 6d., 5s., 2s. 6d. and 1s., which he will be glad to sell to members.

SUNDAY MEETING,

January 30th,

400 OLD FORD RD., BOW, E.

Speakers:

MISS SYLVIA PANKHURST.

MRS. BOYCE.

Chair: MISS LYNCH.

ADMISSION ... ... 2d.

WOMEN'S TRADE UNION NOTES.

By ALICE MACLENAN.

At Messrs. Brigg's, Ltd., tarpaulin s heetmakers, of Manchester, women's labour has been introduced in the sheet marking department; the men were requested to work with the women, in sets of two women and one man The men objected, on the ground that, under their existing piece-work system, working with inexperienced women would reduce the wages of the man, and that in addition he would have to do all the heavy work of all three without any extra pay. The Union organiser interviewed the managing director, and it was agreed that the men should go back to work, they agreeing to raise no objection to women workers, provided that men and women should be employed in separate sets, and that the women should receive 15s. per week during a probationary period of a fortnight, and thereafter be paid at the same rates as the men. It was further agreed that in times of slackness and short time absolute equality between the men and women should be observed, the efficiency of the worker being the only consideration.

In many places all over the country, particularly in Edinburgh, efforts are being made to organise the women workers in the furnishing trades in conjunction with the men, with the view of obtaining higher wages to meet the increased food prices. In every case in which advances have been obtained for the men in Liverpool and Manchester area by the Furnishing Trades Association, the Association has insisted on corresponding advances being given to women.

In Wigan the men employees of several clothing factories are out on strike, because women have been introduced into the cutting rooms. If the meeting, which is to take place between the workers and the employers should not be satisfactory the Executive of the Amalgamated Union of Clothing Operatives will meet to decide further action, and possibly other shops in the town will cease work. During the last few weeks several other attempts to introduce women into the cutting rooms on the employers' own terms have been made in different parts of the country. In some instances women have been paid as low as 12s. a week for doing work for which men received 34s. to £2. The A. U. C. O. made a protest against this to the Home Office authorities, which resulted in a Conference at the Home Office, on Thursday December 2nd, at which it was proposed that the time rate of wages for women employed on men's work be not less than three-quarters of the wages of the men whose places they have taken, the minimum to be 24s. Where women are employed on piece-work rates, they shall receive the same rate as that paid to men.

Further negotiations are to take place at a final meeting to be held at an early date, under the auspices of the Home Office.

Another victory in the clothing trade has been won after a two-day's strike at Leeds by the girls employed at the Hope Manufacturing Co. Fourteen girls on refusing to do a particular class of work at a certain price, were told to "get out." Thereupon their fellow-workers, 186 in number, left their work to support those who had been dismissed, with the result that the girls secured the 6d. per hour that they were demanding.

In the *Daily News* an S.S.F.A. worker writes of the working of the machinery to secure dependants of unmarried soldiers from hardship. A poor mother appealed to the Appeal Committee—she was awarded the maximum sum, 12s. 6d. The case was referred to the War Office. After some delay her "Ring Paper" was sent back for a sum under 9s. The woman again appealed—the Pensions Committee confirmed its previous award of 12s. 6d.

The question seems to be how to convince the War Office that the Pensions Committee is competent to pass final judgment!

The Circulation of the DREADNOUGHT is growing. Help it to grow faster by sending a Subscription.

POLISH NEWS.

Polish News reports that in the Budget Committee of the Russian Duma, the Polish Deputy Harusiewicz drew attention to the fact of the opening of the Polish University in Warsaw.

He declared that this matter had been agreed in principle a year ago, but the Russian Government always put off its realisation. A year ago the Minister of Education, Raczynskij, has said that the necessary number of professors and scholars could not be found to complete the university scheme, and Harusiewicz had in vain offered his services as mediator in finding suitable Polish teachers. Two and a-half months after taking Warsaw the Germans effected the opening of the Polish University.

In answering this speech the Minister of Education, Count Ignatjew expressed deep regret that the Poles had obtained their university from the Germans and not from the Russians.

Dep. Harusiewicz then pointed out to the Minister that even at present, in the town of Charkow, the educational authorities had informed a Polish teacher, who was applying for an educational post, that in order to obtain it, he must first be converted to the Orthodox (Russian) faith.

The Minister, in his reply, characterised this as a very regrettable occurrence, and stated that he had circulated an order to the authorities allowing the appointment of non-Orthodox teachers.

At three points of the budget, at the request of Dep. Harusiewicz, instead of the name "The District of Vistula" was inserted: "Kingdom of Poland."

Thus we see that under the stress of war and the knowledge of German competition the Russian Goverment is being forced to grant some slight reforms. *Polish News* further reports that there is great distress in Poland, and most people are "literally dying of hunger."

"The newspapers are full of appeals for bread, and nothing but bread. Articles, leaders, telegrams and advertisements, all repeat the same refrain. The Germans divided bread tickets very methodically, but none the less there is no bread. The Warsaw authorities arrange one sitting after another in order to grapple with the problem. But to all the recriminations of the Polish citizens the chief of the police, von Glasenapp, answered that the German authorities had done all that was in their power, but that the Russians had not left sufficient food behind."

In Vilna food prices are excessively high, and the town is in pitch darkness at night, as the gas works were destroyed by the retreating Russian army, and the Germans have taken, for their own use, all the oil and petrol.

But in spite of hardship the people grasp eagerly at the increased freedom that has come to them, and two Polish secondary schools have been opened. At Lodz a new Polish daily paper has been started, and two new Polish elementary schools. In Warsaw a high school of Social Science and Commerce has been opened.

WAR OFFICE CALLOUSNESS.

Mr. Norman Craig told the House of Commons the story of a wounded soldier who had died from exposure on the deck of a ship bound for the Isle of Lewis.

The War Office had received no notification of the fact, but when Mr. Tennant was asked to see that men on leave were not thus exposed he made the flippant remark that he could not "alter the inclemency of the weather."

A soldier's wife, who has become insane, is deprived of her separation allowance, but Mr. Forster remarked that her children get higher allowances, as they are regarded as motherless.

This being the case, a soldier's wife is paid simply as the nurse of her children, which is a step towards payment of mothers in general.

If this poor woman were still in receipt of her allowance, she could probably pay for better treatment in the asylum.

"The child of to-day is the soldier of to-morrow."—Mr. Ramsay Macdonald at Bristol.

POPLAR CHILDREN'S PARTY.

The Children's party held by the Poplar branch of the E. L. F. S. in Poplar Town Hall on January 22nd, was greatly enjoyed by the children. The string band composed of Miss Wilcox and pupils played during tea, and the little girls of the troupe gave charming skirt dances. Mr. Lansbury and Mr. Hobday again kindly sent the marionettes and a musical clown, and the children joined lustily in the choruses.

Labour's Legion of Boy Scouts did splendid service in keeping order.

Boys and girls who attended our Poplar children's party are invited to send us a report of it, which should be not more than 500 words in length. The best report will be published in the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT, and a prize of 5s. will be awarded. Manuscripts should be sent to the Editor, at 400, Old Ford Road, Bow, E., not later than Saturday, February 5th.

"MARRIED VERSUS SINGLE."

Dear Editor,—All war is infamous. We do not believe in either single or married men being murdered, or murdering, but even if war were permissible, Mr. Asquith is illogical in saying "single men first."

As he trails this red herring across the path to divert attention from the real wrong (war), it will be as well to explode the fallacy.

1. A married man is not being robbed of such a full share of life as a single man.

2. The State loses a man who would be of active service for a longer period, and we are already short of men for the future.

3. The State has borne the burden of educating these young men without any industrial return.

4. A married man has his wife and children to save, a single man has not this incentive to fight for.

5. By sending the young men first we shall have younger men suffering as cripples and invalids for a much longer period after the War.

6. As men are mostly killed by machinery, why should cannon's food be made of the fittest of the fit—the flower of our land?

7. The percentage of children for the future will be greater if the married men are sent first.

Mr. Asquith evidently is *not* thinking of England's *future*, so, why should he pledge it?—Yours etc., CLARA COLE.

THE "COMING DAY."

The MONTHLY PAPER of the Free Church League for Woman Suffrage.

The "Coming Day" stands for the re-construction of Society on a religious basis, and including the co-operation of men and women.

Published the 15th of each month. Price 1½d. post free.

13 BREAM'S BUILDINGS, CHANCERY LANE, LONDON, E.C.

THE "WOMAN WORKER."

Editors:

MARY MACARTHUR AND SUSAN LAWRENCE.

BUY THE "WOMAN WORKER."

The Paper for Women.

The Paper for Trade Unionists.

By a printer's error in our Suffrage Directory last week, the words "Newspaper Votes for Women," appeared to belong to the W.S.P.U. instead of to the U.S. above.

My dear Sylvia,—I was pleased with the toy which you sent me. I said to daddy, when I first saw it, I said is it alive? We did not know what it was at first.

With love from— JOAN (aged 7).

Written on receipt of "Jack and Jill" from the E.L.F.S. Toy Factory.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND.—Miss Margaret Hood (DREADNOUGHT FUND) 1.1.0, collection Victoria Park 10.6½, T. Morris, Esq. (monthly) 5.0, Sandy Kirkwood, Esq. 4.0, collection General Meeting 2.10, Miss Almey St. John Adcock 2.6, Mr. Barfield 2.6, collection Hackney 1.0.

FOR MILK & GENERAL DISTRESS.—Miss Margaret Hood (proceeds of concert at One Mile Girls' School) 18.4.6, "In Memory of Mary Clarke" 2.2.3, Mrs. Beattie Seaman 2.2.0, Mrs. Cobb 2.0.0, Miss McCulloch 1.6.0, W. T. Sampson, Esq. 1.0.0, M. G. 1.0.0, Misses Macfarland and Coleman 1.0.0, Misses Collier (monthly) 1.0.0, Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett (monthly) 1.0.0, Margaret, Joseph & William 14.0, Miss D. Rock 10.8, Mrs. Green (monthly) 10.0, Mrs. Burroughs 10.0, Mrs. Bevan (monthly) 10.0, Mrs. Heywood Bright (weekly) 5.0, Miss A. Goodall 5.0, Mrs. I. Cooke (monthly) 5.0, Mrs. Gillies (monthly) 4.0, West Adams 3.6, Mrs. Graham 3.6, Miss F. M. May 2.6, Mr. Waters 2.6, Miss Marting 2.6, Mrs. Simpson (weekly) 2.6, Miss M. Osward (weekly) 2.0, Miss M. Newman 2.0, Mr. Quarterman 2.0, Miss Osward (weekly) 2.0, Nurse Richards 2.0, Private Clarey 2.0, Miss E. Kirby 2.0, Mr. Stiebel 1.0, Mrs. Thomas (weekly) 1.0, Mrs. Pascoe (weekly) 1.0, Mrs. Ferne (weekly) 1.0, Mrs. Dodge 1.0.

COLLECTIONS.—Toolroom L.S.A. 1.11.0½, Bow Clinic 1.3.8½, L.S.A. per Mr. Bryant 14.0, Mrs. Crabb 13.4½, Miss Lois Turner 13.0, L.S.A. Employees per Mr. Wilkes 8.0, Miss Lynch 7.8, at Nursery 4.1, Employees at Comptons 3.6.

Messrs. Walter Ford.—Crate of Bananas.

Mrs. Hancock.—Clothes.

Anonymous.—Boots.

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